(x) Bengal Engineering and Science University, Howrah (W.B.).

(c) and (d) To supplement R&D activities in iron and steel sector in the country, a virtual centre namely, Steel Research and Development Mission (SRDM) has been registered as a society under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001 at Hyderabad (A.P.). Its affairs and expenditure would be governed by a Governing Council comprising of eminent scientists, professionals and leading industrialists.

The average annual expenditure on R&D by the Indian steel plants and allied sector for the last three years is given below:

2002-03	Rs. 91.30 crore
2003-04	Rs. 121.00 crore
2004-05	Rs. 113.83 crore

Banning on DDT

554. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether our country has not banned the use and consumption of DDT;

(b) whether a study conducted recently has shown that exposure of DDT may slow down the progress of children;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that even after 33 years of ban in USA and UK, DDT is still detectable in 10 per cent population and DDE, the compound that DDT degrades to, is also detectable in nearly everyone; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to ban DDT and use a near alternative of DDT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The use of DDT in agriculture has been withdrawn since 1989. Limited quantities of DDT, upto 10,000 metric tonnes per annum, are being used for control of vector borne diseases

like Malaria and Kala Azar in accordance with recommendations of WHO. A High Level Mandate Committee has been constituted which meets annually in order to determine the area and quantum of DDT spray in the country.

(b) to (e) DDT is a persistent organic compound which can stay in the environment long after its initial application. During this period, DDT and its breakdown products may enter the food chain and accumulate in fatty tissues. There is currently no direct link established between DDT and its possible negative effects on human health.

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (1997-98) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(a) Annual Accounts of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 1997-1998, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 30 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992.

(b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 4496/06]

Notification of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub section (1) of section 31 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) Notification G.S.R. 273 (E)